

May 2, 2021

Teach Us to Pray
Matthew 6:5-15

Warning About Prayer:

Matthew 6:5-8 / Matthew 6:1

1. Remember who you are actually **TALKING TO** (God)
 - Don't pray to **IMPRESS OTHERS**.
2. Prayer is about your **RELATIONSHIP** more than **RITUAL**.
 - Matthew 6:5-8 is about **THEOLOGY** not **METHODOLOGY**.
 - Prayer flows out of an intimate relationship with your **FATHER**.
 - Prayer is a **FAMILY PRIVILEGE**.

What To Pray For:

Matthew 6:9-13

1. God's **AGENDA**
2. Our **NEEDS**:
 - **PHYSICAL**
 - **SPIRITUAL**
 - **PROTECTION**

The Linchpin: FORGIVENESS

Matthew 6:14-15 / Luke 7:36-50

Life Group Questions

- 1) Looking back at this week's teaching and study, is there anything you want to start doing differently in your prayer life?
- 2) Can you think of any fears, confusions and/or misconceptions you've had or have about prayer?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 3) Prayer isn't supposed to be complicated or intimidating. How do the following verses reinforce that prayer is simple and vital to our spiritual growth?

Matthew 6:7

Romans 8:26-27

James 5:13-16

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

What do these verses tell us about how God relates to us?

Which of these verses is most helpful with your motivation to pray?

- 4) The quality of communication in any relationship is directly related to the quality and depth of the relationship. The same is true in our relationship with God.

Nehemiah was a man whose relationship with God had quality and depth, which can be seen in his prayer life. **Read Nehemiah 1:5-11** and jot down anything that gives you insight into Nehemiah's relationship and communication with God, and how it might impact or help you to grow in your own prayer life.

- 5) Read **Luke 11:5-8** & **Luke 18:1-8** about the importance of *persistence* in prayer. The verses below contain prayers some people have chosen to pray regularly. Jot down a quick summary of each prayer.

1 Kings 3:5-15

1 Chronicles 4:10

Colossians 4:2-6

How might God grow and change you if you prayed each of these prayers regularly?

TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of being in a LifeGroup. Over the years, we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines:

- 1) **PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME** - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.
- 2) **PRAY MORE THAN ONCE** - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.
- 3) **KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE** - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused, and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud

PRAYER REQUESTS

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